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## THIS LOOKS GOOD

### GRASSHOPPER WAR IN COLORADO.

On the evening of June 23, County Agent Hale, of El Paso County, Colorado, was called on the telephone and informed of a grasshopper invasion in the southeast corner of that county. On the 24th he met a committee of farmers from that part of the county, and the county commissioners, for the purpose of securing financial aid in fighting the insect invasion. Two truck loads of supplies to be used in preparing poison bran mash were sent out to the infested area that day. County Agent Hale accompanied the first shipment of the poison materials and took charge of organization of the preliminary campaign, he being the first agent to reach the infested area.

On the same date invasions of the hoppers were reported in the northeast corner of Pueblo, the southwest corner of Lincoln, and the northwest corner of Crowley counties. These outbreaks were reported to the agents in Pueblo and Lincoln counties.

Immediately the agents in the three counties together with groups of farmers met the county commissioners of their respective counties, who authorized an expenditure of \$200 in each case with which to start the fight.

A report of the outbreak was made to the State entomologist. An investigation showed the hoppers originated in the adobe flats of Crowley County and were moving northward in a fan-shaped formation over a front of approximately forty miles. After a survey was made by the deputy State entomologist, the cost of eradicating or controlling the outbreak was estimated at \$10,000.

On June 30 a meeting of the Governor of the State, county commissioners of the four counties, three county agents, the State entomologist, and the deputy State entomologist was held at Colorado Springs and plans were made for starting a campaign on a larger scale than had been previously attempted. The Governor pledged \$3,500 of State funds and the county commissioners of each county pledged one-fourth of the remaining \$6,500. The money was placed in the First National Bank at Pueblo at the disposal of Deputy State Entomologist Corkins, who was given charge of the organization of the campaign.

Eight camps were established on the forty mile line with a mixing foreman and nine mixers at each camp to prepare the poison mash. Two scouts

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were appointed to go over that section of the line in charge of each camp and to report to the foreman the movements of the pest army. Ten to twenty-five men worked from each camp to distribute mash beginning at daybreak each morning. One line foreman and two sub-foremen were appointed to watch operations along the entire front and to keep informed the deputy State entomologist who in addition to directing the activities of the hopper fighters purchased necessary supplies for carrying on the work and arranged for their delivery to each camp.

The outbreak occurred in a dryland section twenty-five to fifty miles from the nearest railroad points, making it necessary to haul supplies by truck to the line of action. Farmers in the infested area donated the use of their trucks and their time and hauled all of the supplies from Fowler, the nearest railroad point. A total of 150,000 pounds of bran, 7,500 pounds of Paris green and white arsenic, 3,000 gallons of molasses, 2000 dozens of lemons and oranges and 15 gallons of banana oil, were used during the campaign. The Paris green was located by County Agent Sawhill, in a wrecked freight car in the yards at Pueblo following the flood of June 3, and was purchased at 15 cents per pound.

By July 9 the hopper army had been completely defeated and the farmers returned to their homes after supplies of materials had been stored at strategic points in the district to be used in case of a second outbreak.

It was possible to successfully fight the hoppers only because of the prompt and efficient cooperative action of State and county officials, the office of the State entomologist, the county agents, and the people of the four counties.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the farmers of Crowley County are extremely anxious to obtain the services of a county agent.

County Agent Section
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